

Application No.: 09/975,136

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Docket No.: 524022000100

REMARKS

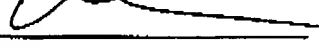
Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 5-18, 20 and 22-24 will be pending. Claims 1-4, 19 and 21 are canceled. Applicants reserve the rights to pursue the withdrawn and/or canceled subject matter in a subsequent application. The above-described amendments do not introduce any new matter into the present application.

As agreed upon in the October 29, 2003 telephonic interview, the present amendments address all outstanding issues. Early allowance of the pending claims 5-18, 20 and 22-24 are earnestly requested. If, however, the Examiner believes that three are still unaddressed issues, the undersigned would like to have another telephonic interview to discuss such issues.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 524022000100. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: October 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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